

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 30, 2007.

By the present amendment, the original claims 1-5 have been replaced by new claims 6-11 to clarify the invention. With regard to this, the language rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, has been revised in the newly presented dependent claim 7, and, as such, removal of the 35 USC §112, second paragraph, rejection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of the newly submitted claim 6 and its dependent claims 7-11 over the primary reference to Oshita (JP 2001-237072) whether considered alone or in combination with the cited secondary references to Yamazaki (USP 6,830,494), Takai et al (USPub. 2002/0197395), Woodgate (USP 5,991,073) and applicants admitted state of the prior art (referred to in the Office Action as AASPA) is respectfully requested. By the present Amendment, the new independent claim 6 specifically defines features of the claimed method for the manufacturing of an organic electro-luminescence panel by forming at least one of a whole transfer layer, a whole injection layer, an organic light emitting layer, an electron injection layer and/or an electron transfer layer for each of a plurality of pixels by vapor deposition through a mask hole of a multi-layer metal mask. More specifically, new independent claim 6 specifically defines that the multi-layer metal mask is formed by performing:

"a first process of coating said first surface of said thick magnetic plate with a first resist, and then of forming substantially convex shapes of said first resist corresponding to said first mask holes on said first surface by exposing and developing said first resist;

a second process of electrodepositing said nickel on the first surface of said magnetic plate and of forming said nickel layer having said first mask holes by removing said substantially convex shapes of said first resist;

a third process of coating said second surface of said magnetic plate with a second resist, and then of forming a substantially convex shape of said second resist on said second surface by exposing and developing said second resist; and

a fourth process of forming said second mask holes each from said second surface of said magnetic plate to said first mask hole by etching said magnetic

plate from a region of said second surface where said substantially convex shape of said second resist is not formed;"

By virtue of these specific method steps, the present invention is able to overcome problems discussed, for example, in paragraph [0007] of the US Pub. 2004/0135498, which is the published application of the present application. As discussed in paragraph [0007] in prior art techniques for manufacturing an organic EL panel, it has been difficult to control sectional shapes of aperture portions and difficult to give the aperture portions a tilt angle which is advantageous to oblique deposition. Therefore, obtaining organic EL devices having high definition and high performance has been quite difficult using prior art methods. Accordingly, by virtue of the method claimed in independent claim 6, utilizing the claimed multi-layer metal mask formed in accordance with the above-noted four process steps, a greatly improved organic electro-luminescent panel can be obtained.

With regard to the prior art, it is respectfully submitted that nothing in either the primary reference to Oshita or the cited secondary references teaches or suggests the above-noted features for the utilization of the claimed multi-layer metal mask for vapor deposition to form an organic-electro-luminescent panel, in which the multi-layer metal mask is formed by the four process steps defined at the end of independent claim 6. In particular, although Oshita teaches a fabrication method utilizing a metal mask having first and second openings, there is no suggestion at all for the fabrication of the metal mask itself utilizing the four steps clearly defined at the end of claim 6. Further, nothing in the various cited secondary references, including applicants admitted prior art, makes up for the shortcomings of the primary reference to Oshita regarding these features. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of newly presented independent claim 6 over the cited prior art is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of the dependent claims 7-11 is also respectfully requested. With regard to this, it is noted that dependent claims 7 and 8 correspond to previously submitted claims 4 and 5, and define further specific features which, when considered with the features of the parent independent claim 6, serve to provide a further overall method that is clearly not obvious over the cited prior art. New dependent claims 9-11 define specifics of the nickel-iron alloy being a 42% nickel-iron alloy in the magnetic plate (corresponding, for example, to the

magnetic plate 21 in Fig. 1). As such, these claims define even further over the cited prior art.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 1113.43392X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By /Gregory E. Montone 
Gregory E. Montone
Registration No. 28,141

GEM/dks
1300 North Seventeenth Street, Suite 1800
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Telephone: (703) 312-6600
Facsimile: (703) 312-6666